Thursday: 23/11/2023

Day 48 of Israeli Occupation aggression on Palestine

Daily report on the effects of the Israeli Occupation aggression in Palestine

Current situation in Palestine from 7th of October to 23rd of November 2023

The information in this report as of Wednesday, 22/11/2023.

A significant portion of the data in the report remains outdated due to a disruption in communication that occurred on Tuesday morning in Gaza City and the northern Gaza Strip. This disruption resulted from Israeli occupation airstrikes on communication towers, leading to a complete breakdown of communications in these regions.

Emergency operations center in the ministry of health Ramallah oversees the data collection process through its offices in Gaza. Figures updated every 24 hours. These numbers reflect the verified statistics only but do not necessarily reflect all causalities given the fact that many victims remain missing under the rubble.

Attacks on Hospitals and Health System:

- **Current Situation:**
  - The healthcare crisis in Gaza has reached a critical juncture, as incessant attacks on medical facilities and personnel intensify an already dire humanitarian predicament.

- **Healthcare Facilities Under Siege and attacks:**
  - On November 22, 190 wounded and sick people, along with medical teams, were forced by the Israeli occupation to evacuate to the south from Shifa Hospital. The evacuation faced obstacles, lasting nearly 20 hours, putting lives at risk, The occupation forces also arrested the director of Al-Shifa Hospital and a number of health personnel.
  - On November 22, Kamal Adwan Hospital was heavily bombarded, resulting in dozens killed. Only two hospitals north of Wadi Gaza are still operational.
  - On November 21, heavy strikes hit the Indonesian Hospital, causing casualties. The hospital is no longer operational.
  - On November 21, Al Awda Hospital endured an attack, resulting in the tragic loss of four doctors and injuries to numerous patients. Urgent calls from Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) urged the evacuation of over 200 patients to a secure medical facility.
  - On November 22, 75,000 liters of fuel entered Gaza from Egypt to support essential humanitarian operations.

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- **Evacuation and Escalating Humanitarian Crisis:**
  - On November 21, approximately 500 patients and staff were evacuated from the Indonesian Hospital in Beit Lahiya (North Gaza) to Khan Younis (in the south) after THE Israeli Occupation direct attack the previous day claimed at least 12 lives. The hospital, surrounded by Israeli occupation troops and tanks, faces ongoing attacks, trapping additional patients and thousands of forcibly displaced persons awaiting evacuation.
  - On November 22, patients undergoing dialysis, who were evacuated from Shifa Hospital, were relocated to Abu Youssef An Najjar Hospital in Rafah. Simultaneously, other patients were evacuated to the European Hospital in Khan Younis.

- **Status of Healthcare Facilities:**
  - Only two small hospitals in the north (Gaza City and Beit Lahiya) are partially operational.
  - In the south, seven out of 11 medical facilities are currently partially functional.
  - Gaza's bed capacity has decreased from 3,500 before the war to a mere 1,400 presently.
  - Bed Capacity Decline: Gaza's bed capacity has decreased from 3,500 before the war to a mere 1,400 presently. One functional hospital has the capacity to treat critical trauma cases or perform complex surgery, as reported by the WHO.

- **Civilian Casualties:**
  - The collapse of services and communications in northern Gaza hospitals led to the absence of updated cumulative numbers of martyrs and wounded.
  - On November 20, an UNRWA school in Al Bureij camp sheltering forcibly displaced suffered artillery fire, resulting in at least 12 deaths and 35 injuries. As of November 19, 176 forcibly displaced in UNRWA premises had lost their lives, and 778 were injured.
  - As of November 19, 108 UNRWA staff have died in Gaza since October 7 due to Israeli Occupation attacks.

- **Forcibly Displaced Conditions and Escalating Health Risks:**
  - Overcrowded UNRWA Facilities: Nearly 770,000 FORCIBLY DISPLACED s, out of 1.7 million, crowd into 99 UNRWA facilities south of Wadi Gaza, facing extremely overcrowded conditions.

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- Health Concerns: Over the past two weeks, there has been a 35% increase in skin diseases and a 40% increase in diarrhoea cases. Poor sanitary conditions, exacerbated by recent cold rain, amplify the risk of epidemics, potentially leading to a spike in child pneumonia, as warned by the WHO.

Destroyed Buildings and Displacement

- **Forcible displacement:**
  - The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) estimates that, as of 11 November, there were about 807,000 Palestinians living in areas north of Wadi Gaza (hereafter: the north), constituting about two-thirds of the pre-war population there. The other third of the population, about 400,000 according to PCBS's estimates, were presumably displaced to the south.
  - Forced Evacuation: On November 21, the Israeli occupation forces continued pressuring residents of the north to move southwards through a designated "corridor" along Salah Ad Deen Road.
  - Despite a decline in movement volume, Israeli occupation forces have been arresting individuals in the corridor.
  - Unaccompanied children and separated families attempting to leave have been increasingly observed. An interagency plan is under development to address this situation, including case registration.
  - Overcrowded UNRWA Shelters: Over 1.7 million people in Gaza are estimated to be internally displaced, with almost 930,000 forcibly displaced s in at least 154 UNRWA shelters, exceeding their intended capacity. Overcrowding contributes to the spread of diseases, prompting health concerns.
  - Health Challenges in Shelters: In UNRWA schools, an average of 160 people share a single toilet, exacerbating the spread of diseases. Cases of skin diseases and diarrhea have increased by 35% and 40%, respectively, since November 7.
  - Over 15% of forcibly displaced, as of November 1, are estimated to have disabilities. Shelters lack basic necessary medical equipment for their needs, resulting in health issues that cannot be adequately addressed in unsterilized conditions.
  - Israeli occupation forces have reportedly been arresting some forcibly displaced fleeing through the "corridor." There are anecdotal and eyewitness reports of some forcibly displaced being beaten and stripped of their clothing.

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- **Destroyed building and infrastructure:**
  - The final count of destruction is not available as the bombardment is continuing and disruption of all communication channels.
  - Latest updates indicates that more than 59% (almost 280,000) of housing units are destroyed, destroyed units: more than 56 thousand, partially destroyed housing units: 224 thousand. The extensive destruction exacerbates health vulnerabilities, making it challenging to quantify the full extent of the health impact amidst the persisting attacks.
  - Since 11 October, the Gaza Strip has been under an electricity blackout, after the Israeli authorities cut off the electricity supply, and fuel reserves for Gaza's sole power plant depleted.

West Bank including east Jerusalem:

- Escalation in Israeli Occupation forces and settler attacks in the West Bank since October 7th have been documented. Israeli occupation forces have killed 228 Palestinians, Additionally, 2,900 were injured.
- Attacks by the Israeli occupation forces on hospitals, health centres, ambulance vehicles, and health personnel in the West Bank are increasing. The latest incident occurred yesterday when the occupation forces stormed the grounds of Tulkarem Government Hospital and arrested an injured person inside an ambulance while being transferred to the emergency department of the hospital.
- First response -emergency capabilities have been overwhelmed by the increase in injuries due to Israeli occupation forces aggression, with high demand for emergency medical supplies in hospitals.
- The closure of Israeli occupation checkpoints, lack of safety, movement restrictions and attacks on health facilities and personnel make the movement of ambulances difficult, restrict the movement of healthcare workers, and patients' access to primary care and hospitals between West Bank towns and Jerusalem.
- Parts of Area C are still inaccessible to partners running mobile clinics, leaving residents without access to basic healthcare services.

Urgent Needs:

- An immediate ceasefire and cessation of the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip, West Bank, and their health institutions.
- We appeal to United Nations, international and human rights institutions to implement **immediately** international humanitarian laws that prohibit attacks on hospitals, health centres, ambulances, health teams and paramedics immediately.
- Urgently allowing the entry of humanitarian and health supplies into the Gaza strip, especially medicine, medical supplies, food, milk and fuel for electrical generators in hospitals.
- Open safe corridor for the entrance of volunteer medical teams.
- Open safe corridor for the wounded to be evacuated for treatment in hospitals in the Arab Republic of Egypt and elsewhere.
- Immediate Stopping of the displacement of citizens.
- Immediate support is needed to establish effective search and rescue operations.